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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/633,883	08/04/2003	Dirk Pellizari	22613	5242

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, SON V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/633,883

Applicant(s)

PELLIZARI, DIRK

Examiner

Son V Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/4/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Braun et al. (US 5,718,609) in view of Huang (US 6,074,223).

Braun et al. discloses a grounding IC card holder [10, figures 1-4] comprising:

- a conductive cover [12, column 6, 6 line 54] pivotally mounted on a dielectric base [11];
- the base fixed on to a circuit board [not shown] which is read on applicant claimed a support;
- the cover having a slot [figures 5-7, column 6, lines 6, lines 45-47] to hold a card and pivoting between open and closed positions; and
- latch means [43, 44].

Braun et al. discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for the cover having ground contacts positioned in a cut out formed in the base when the cover is in the closed position, the ground contacts are formed as springs fingers, are of the same material as the cover,

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are unitary with the cover, are formed at an edge of the cover, and the ground contacts are offset from slot.

Huang discloses a card connector comprising a cover having ground contacts [33, figure 1B] positioned in a cut out formed in the base when the cover is in a closed position, the ground contacts are formed as springs fingers, are of the same material as the cover, are unitary with the cover, are formed at an edge of the cover, and the ground contacts are offset from slot [figure 2B].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the connector of Braun et al. to provide the detail structures of the ground contacts formed in the cover and the cut out formed in the base as taught by Huang for the purpose of facilitating grounding the connector.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 12 is allowed over the prior art of record.
4. Claims 8-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the combination, cooperation and interaction that applicant claimed:

- a) a card holder comprising a grounded element is a latching tab fixed to a base, as recited with other elements in the claim 7.
 - b) a card holder comprising a hinge having a part on a base connected to a grounded support and a part integrally connected to a cover in electrically conductive engagement with the part on the base, as recited with other elements in the claim 26.
- deflection and the peripheral sections are permitted to deflect upon translational movement of a cover, as recited with other elements in the claims 17-19.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son V Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2097. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

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Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Struyman".

sn

March 15, 2004